

DR. ALEXANDER ON COTTON HOLDING

President of the Union Points Out Objections to the Plans Proposed by New York Financiers

GROWERS' STRONGEST WEAPON, HOLDING COTTON

"If All the Cotton Now in the Hands of the Grower Was Turned Loose According to This Plan That We Would See a Slump in the Price at Once With Very Little Prospect of an Advance Until the Next Crop Became a Positive Factor, in Fixing the Price."

To the Editor: I have read and re-read the press reports of the plan devised by Southern representatives and New York bankers to aid the Southern farmers in holding cotton. I wish I could give the plan my unqualified indorsement. I credit these Southern representatives with honesty and sincerity of purpose in their efforts to obtain for the South's great money crop a price that will leave to the producer a fair margin of profit above the cost of production. This is probably the best arrangement that could be made through Northern capitalists. Cotton is strictly a Southern crop and the North is not directly interested in the price paid the producer.

But it takes a lot of money to move the cotton crop. This money is furnished directly or indirectly by the money trust, which centres in New York. Wall street is directly interested in securing a high rate of interest on this money; and no doubt is often directly or indirectly interested in making it buy the farmers' cotton at as low a price as possible. Therefore, I am reminded of the old proverb, "beware of the Greeks bearing gifts." This may be an unjust insinuation against the bankers proposing to put up the money and I hope it is.

Now let us examine the plan. It proposes to loan twenty-five dollars per bale, on the payment of a fee of one dollar per bale, without interest for a limited time; this limit being January, 1913, when the contract must be closed regardless of the price of cotton. The plan as reported provides further, that "the cotton is not held nor taken from the channels of trade, but is placed at the best advantage."

"The grower is given the right to designate the day of sale prior to January 1, 1913, and will participate in any advance in price to the extent of three-fourths of the rise in the market." The fund will be placed through State committees named by the Governor or Commissioner of Agriculture. These committees are empowered to sell when cotton reaches 12 cents, and are compelled to sell when it reaches 13 cents. Great care is taken to provide against a violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law. Big business can violate the law for years and years and when finally brought before the courts and adjudged guilty is let off without any penalty whatever and allowed to prescribe its own method of conforming to the law. But the farmer must be careful how he defends himself and his family, or he will be snatched up before a court of justice (?).

We will now analyze the plan a little further. The grower lays down his strongest and most reliable weapon of defense when he lets go the cotton. Possession is three points in the law and it's the "whole thing" so far as the farmer is concerned in this fight for living prices at the hands of the speculators. Again; the grower is taking all the risk, but receives only three-fourths of the profits. The fee of one dollar per bale which he pays, is four per cent interest on the \$25 for twelve months. It is hardly probable that many of the contracts will run twelve months and it is a reasonable conclusion that the one dollar per bale fee will cover all expenses of "grading and handling" and four per cent interest on the loan. This is considered pretty good interest on such a large loan as is here contemplated. Add to this the one-fourth of the possible rise in price and it looks like a money making scheme.

I believe if all the cotton now in the hands of the grower was turned loose according to this plan, that we would see a slump in the price at once with very little prospect of an advance until the next crop became a positive factor in fixing the price. But with the present balance of the crop in the hands of the grower and a strong determination to let it remain there, it becomes a strong leverage to pry up the price.

Our home bankers and merchants

ought to give the farmers all possible aid in holding for better prices. They are doing it in many localities. Whatever price the farmer receives for his cotton will soon find its way back to the banker and merchant; that is the greater part of it.

What shall the cotton farmer do in this crisis? Do the very best that he can with the aid of home banker and merchant to hold on to his cotton. Then get busy sowing grain and preparing to make a living next year, instead of trying to make money on "time bills and cotton." Build warehouses for handling the next crop. Quit buying so much high priced fertilizers and go to farming in a sensible way. Make the farm self-sustaining by growing all food crops. Adopt a systematic rotation, with deep plowing and the sowing of legumes to fill the soil with humus and nitrogen. And stay out of debt.

I had expected to say something about the problems of the tobacco farmers and the possible remedies; but this letter is already long enough.

Yours fraternally,

H. Q. ALEXANDER.

Matthews, N. C., Route 17, Nov. 28.

OHIO HOMESEEKERS

Party of Nineteen Entertained by the Chamber of Commerce of Kinston

Elizabeth City Gave Them a Notable Reception, When There Were Brilliant Addresses—The Winner of the Silver Cup Prize for the Best Corn and Other Prominent Visitors in the Party.

By M. C. CROWSON.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 9.—The Second Carolina Coast Excursion this season by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, in conjunction with the Norfolk and Western and Chesapeake and Ohio railways, was a huge success and twenty-two sturdy farmers of the West and North are now in the Eastern Carolina seeking homes.

The special train bearing the visitors arrived here yesterday shortly before noon. They were accompanied by Major B. E. Rice, Land and Industrial Agent, and W. W. Croxton, General Passenger Agent, and E. C. Potter, Traveling Solicitor, of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, in addition to a number of prominent land owners and planters on the route from the West. The party was met at the train by delegations of leading citizens and officials, representing the Chamber of Commerce, Board of County Commissioners and others. Driving up town in automobiles, the visitors were given a view of the city's streets and points of interest, after which they were conveyed to their hotels, where they had a quick lunch. Shortly thereafter, the Western and Northern visitors were taken in automobiles on a spin to Weeksville, in the southern section of the county. The farms through one of the most attractive and fertile sections of this county were inspected and the visitors were apparently much impressed. The day was ideal in every respect, being bright and balmy for December and gave the Westerners a fine idea of the "Sunny South." The roads were good too. At Weeksville in addition to the farms and lands, the ginning mills and cotton operations were inspected; the visitors being much interested in the South's manner of handling the great staple. On the return, the party was given a delightful sail in a yacht up Newbegun Creek and Pasquotank River to the city, having left the automobiles at Weeksville. The return sail was charming indeed to the guests and they expressed themselves as highly pleased with the outing and everybody that they saw.

After short rests at their rooms in the hotels here upon their return, a banquet was served last night at the Southern Hotel, the proprietor, Thos. C. Jones, Jr., served the spread and it was carried out in the most magnificent style. The menu was elaborate and pleasing, there being eight courses. The scene in the beautiful dining hall was one of brilliancy and attraction. Col. E. F. Lamb, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, acted in the capacity as toastmaster. He greeted the visitors most happily and presented a most convincing argument during the course of the evening on the advantages of this city and county. The first to respond was President W. J. Woodley of the Chamber of Commerce, who welcomed the guests in warm words and assured them that it gave the business men the greatest pleasure to have them here on a tour of inspection with a view to settling. The toastmaster then called upon W. H. Dorin, who was present from Halifax County, Va., a former Westerner. Mr. Dorin is the farmer who carried off the \$2,000 silver cup prize offered at the Madison Square Garden Land Show for the best thirty ears of corn raised in the United States. He spoke of how he found the lands which he now owns and stated that with proper cultivation the lands in this county, which he had seen, could do as much, or more, than his had been made to do. He emphasized the necessity of deep plowing and the turning up of

the under soil and the proper study of the needs of the land for the best production. He told the Westerners that year before last he raised 136 bushels of corn to the acre and the past season he gathered 137 bushels to the acre, which was really below what he had expected. City Attorney Walter L. Cohoon was called upon and responded in behalf of the Municipal Administration. He made a ringing speech that much impressed the guests. E. B. Fent of Kenton, Ohio, talked to the assemblage upon "Union Culture" and it was a most interesting and instructive address. George M. Scott, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, made one of the strongest talks of the evening and electrified his audience by his enthusiasm and optimism. H. N. Tanner, one of the planters from Attica, Ohio, spoke upon the Climate Conditions and the People of the West and South. The comparison was entirely complimentary to the latter and the speaker was continually applauded. He stated that his aged father, who fought in the Union Army, had told him before he started from home to be sure to look up some of the old Confederate soldiers and give them his (father's) love. B. E. Rice, Land and Industrial Agent of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, made a most convincing and happy talk, assuring the farmers that it was to the interest of the railroad to boom and assist in the development of the sections through which it runs.

Columbia Races.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 9.—First race, 3-year-olds, 5 furlongs, selling: Inca, 6 to 5, 7 to 10, 1 to 4, won; Mark Antony II, 4 to 1, 8 to 15, 7 to 10, second; Hannah Louise, 6 to 1, 5 to 2, even, third. Time, 1:00 3-5.

Second, \$200, 2-year-olds and up, 6 furlongs, selling: Lady McGee, 7 to 5, 1 to 2, out won; Republican, 3 to 1, 4 to 5, 2 to 5, second; Mamita, 3 to 1, 2 to 1, 4 to 5, third. Time, 1:14 1-5.

Third, \$200, 3-year-olds and up, mile and 70 yards, selling: Isabel, 9 to 5, 3 to 5, out won. Camel, 9 to 2, to 5, out won; *Helen Barbee, 11 to 5, 7 to 10, 1 to 3, third. Time, 1:45 1-5.

Fourth, \$250 handicap all ages, 5 1-2 furlongs: Hoffman, 4 to 1, 6 to 5, out won; *Helen Barbee, 11 to 5, 1 to 2, out second; Donau, 8 to 1, 2 to 1, out, third. Time, 1:06 1-5.

*Coupled as Burt Chell entry. Fifth race, \$200, three-year-olds and up, 5 furlongs, selling: Thrifty, 8 to 5, 3 to 5, 1 to 3, won; Starboard, 12 to 1, 5 to 1, 3 to 1, second; Edith C, 8 to 1, 3 to 1, 8 to 5, third. Time, 1:00 4-5.

Sixth, \$200, 3-year-olds and up, 6 furlongs, selling: Jessup Burn, 9 to 10, out, won; Bertis, 4 to 1, 2 to 1, 4 to 5, second; Teddy Bear, 15 to 1, 6 to 1, 2 to 1, third. Time, 1:14.

ROCKY MOUNT TOBACCO.

Prices Are Reported as Having Taken a Higher Range.

Rocky Mount, Dec. 9.—Receipts of leaf tobacco, while not heavy, have been fairly good the past week on the Rocky Mount tobacco market, amounting to about 350,000 pounds and averaging nearly 17 cents per pound. There have been a great many fine bright cutters and export leaf, and a fair supply of wrappers, and prices have taken a higher range on all bright tobaccos, as well as the medium and good grades.

The market closed very strong and active Friday, prices being higher than any time this season. Many farmers have sold their last load and tobacco is getting very scarce in the country. It is thought it will practically all be sold by the closing of the market for the holidays, and there will be very little to sell after the New Year.

THE CHANGES IN DURHAM.

Messrs. W. D. Carmichael and W. C. Toms Talk Concerning the Matter. (Special to News and Observer.)

Durham, Dec. 9.—Superintendent W. D. Carmichael, of the Durham schools, who resigned his position to go with the Leggett and Myers Company, gave the following concerning his action:

"During the past fifteen years I have given to the Durham public schools the best service of which I have been capable, and I shall always have a deep interest in the Durham schools and in the cause of education. I love my city and State too much to give up educational work if I did not believe that my new position gives me an opportunity for real service for both of them."

Mr. C. W. Toms, once superintendent of the Durham graded schools, who resigned the position to go with the American Tobacco Company and who is now an officer of the Leggett and Myers Company, says concerning the matter:

"It is useless to say that the Leggett and Myers Tobacco Company is greatly pleased to secure the services of so capable a man as Mr. W. D. Carmichael. His connection with the company will begin on January 1st, 1912, and for the time being, he will be located in Durham in connection with the business of W. Duke Sons and Company. I congratulate the business world."

In the Durham schools in the various changes made the principals have been elected superintendents. Superintendent C. W. Toms being followed by Principal J. A. Matheson, who in turn was succeeded by Principal W. D. Carmichael and who in turn is succeeded by Principal Ernest J. Green.

Farmers who say they can not raise alfalfa have not gone about it in the right way. Some mistake somewhere. Try it again.

SENTENCE WILL BE PRONOUNCED 18 TH

Rev. Sandford Furnishes \$10,000 Bond for His Appearance on That Date

(By the Associated Press.)

Portland, Maine, Dec. 9.—"It is all right, the work of Shiloh will continue as long as I am able to direct it."

This was the only comment made by the Rev. Frank W. Sandford when found guilty in the United States District Court on charges for causing the deaths of six of the crew of the schooner yacht Coronet.

Sentence will be pronounced on the leader of the Holy Ghost and Us movement December 18th, and he furnished \$10,000 bond for his appearance then. The punishment may be a fine of not less than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both.

Sandford addressed the jury for an hour and a half, speaking in his own behalf with impassioned eloquence.

"I think I know what you are going to do with me, gentlemen," he said, near the close of his statement.

"I think God told me sixty days ago on the water. Please give me this assurance—that wherever I go you will say that Mr. Sandford went down with his colors flying and his guns reverberating.

"If I go to jail I shall do the best I can. I do not consider myself a prisoner of the law, but a prisoner of the Lord.

"Others tell about the number of men lost," he continued, with reference to the voyage to the North Atlantic when four men on the Coronet died and were buried at sea, "but my heart laughs at the number of souls saved. Every time I hear talk of the men lost I think of the thousands of Eskimos, many of whom will join the white robed throng."

DETAILS KEPT IN DARK

Believed That Russia Will Establish a Protectorate Over Best Parts of Persia

(By the Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 9.—Details as to the advance of the Russian troops in Persia have been kept for several days completely in the dark. How large a force has been despatched by the Russian government and particulars as to its movements are unknown in London, but the public generally feels that the end will be the establishment of a Russian protectorate over the best parts of Persia, including the two Northern capitals, Tabriz and Teheran.

Newspapers and politicians generally regard it as unlikely that Russia, once entrenched in Teheran, will ever withdraw.

The Teheran correspondent of the Times, predicts that Russia's first act will be to substitute a new form of government for that of the national council.

Possible damage to British commercial interests is absorbing much attention, but the blow to British prestige among Orientals causes most anxiety.

The Outlook says: "We are face to face with one of the gravest crises in the history of British policy in Asia."

W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer general in Persia, whose dismissal was demanded by Russia, is held responsible for bringing the Persian troubles to a crisis. He has been one of the most discussed men in England during the last week. All officials as well as the newspapers credit him with efficiency and good intentions but accuse him of lacking diplomatic tact.

The British cabinet is trying to induce Russia to abate her demands, but the crux of the matter is the tension with Germany which overshadows all other considerations. England needs Russia's support in case of a war with Germany and therefore cannot afford to take a stand against her.

Some people are always complaining of their poverty who are rich without knowing it. Money is not the real gauge of wealth.

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